

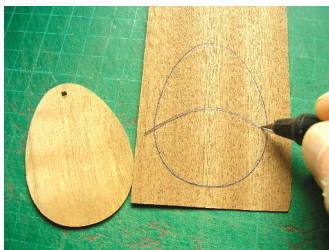
"Robin"



Introduction

Welcome to the "Robin" kit from QJS Marquetry. This simple design is a great introduction to basic marquetry techniques, however you might like to read our "Introduction to Marquetry by the Window Method" sheet and perhaps make the "leaf" test piece from that first. (See www.qjsmarquetry.co.uk/kits.php)

In the pack you'll find the red, brown, white, black and yellow veneers, and a thicker shape which will be the centre of your pendant/Christmas Tree decoration. We'll be following the design above, but you don't need to be exact. Changing the position of the eyes or beak will change the expression of your robin. You'll need a craft knife, some sticky tape, a cutting board or thick cardboard to work on, some PVA glue and a strong clamp. A paper punch might be handy if you have one.



Draw round the oval shape onto a piece of the brown veneer. Keep enough of the brown for later to cover the back of the shape (or make a second robin).

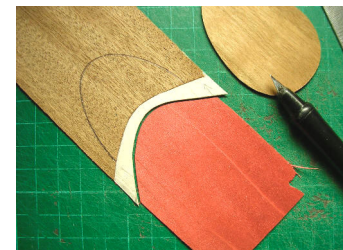
Draw the position of the join between the brown and white areas - use light pencil lines to keep your work clean (I've used heavy lines here so they show in the photos!)

Carefully cut along the line keeping the knife upright to make a clean cut.



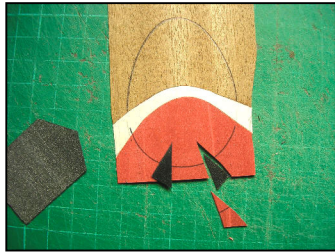
Place the white veneer behind the brown with the grain direction running downwards (it's easier!). Keep the knife against cut brown veneer and carefully mark the white veneer with tiny pricks.

Then cut out the piece of white, which should fit perfectly!



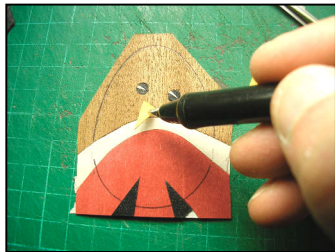
Fasten the pieces together with some sticky tape on the front, remove any tape from the back and rub a little PVA glue into the joint. Remove excess glue and put a piece of tape on the back to hold everything in place.

Repeat for the join between the white and red veneers. Always extend beyond the edge of the shape, so you have a little room for error when sticking down.



Next cut "V"-shaped notches for the feet – they can be anywhere in the red area. (**HINT:** cut a couple of scraps and experiment with the position before cutting the notches). Cut pieces to fit the notches from either black or brown. Push them in position, tape the front and rub glue in from the back. Clean up any glue and tape the back so you can then remove tapes from the front to work on the next pieces.

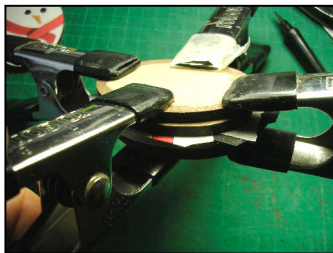
Next cut and glue in the eyes. If you have a paper punch you can cut the holes and the black pieces to fit them using the punch, otherwise cut holes and insert pieces using the "window method". (**HINT:** cut tiny squares or "V"s of white into the black veneer before making the eyes. Once you have cut the hole for the eyes you can move the dotted-black piece behind the hole and see the different expressions for your robin.)



Finally we'll make the beak, and we'll do this a slightly different way to help get a good expression on your robin's face. Cut a few triangles from the yellow veneer and try them in different positions top of the design. Once you've chosen the best position, hold it in place and carefully mark round the beak with your knife point, then cut out the hole and glue in the beak.

(**Hint:** the triangle shape will always have at least one corner which is "cross-grain" and likely to break off. Put some tape on the back of the yellow veneer before cutting out the beak to help hold it all together).

Once the glue is set, tape the front of the design and remove all tape from the back. Rub some PVA glue onto the oval shape and glue it to the veneer – DON'T put the glue on the robin as he'll curl up and be difficult to handle. If the shape already has a hanging hole make sure that the hole is at the top of your robin, otherwise he'll be hanging upside down!



You'll need to use some flat wood and a good clamp to ensure it sticks properly. You may find a little glue will come through your joints, or even through pores in the veneer, so use a piece of plastic to stop your robin sticking where it shouldn't! Strong spring clips like those used for keeping papers together will work, but make sure they do not bruise the delicate veneers.

Hint: ensure you mark the hanging hole through, and trim off the excess veneer, before you glue on the back of your robin. It's much harder to trim the second side, or find the hole, otherwise!

Hint: When removing tape from the veneer always peel it right back on itself to minimise the chance of pulling out your newly inserted piece. Sometimes tape can lift fibres from the veneer. If that starts to happen STOP PULLING – and instead pull the tape from the other end – it will come off more easily.

Your robin will look great now, but to finish him off really well carefully sand him flat using a medium-grade abrasive paper to remove any remaining glue or pencil marks. A coat of clear varnish or lacquer will make him shiny and keep him looking smart for next year! Why not email me a picture of your robin for my website?

For more help and information about marquetry please contact QJS Marquetry

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